

Four County Area including:

Johnson County

Nemaha County

Pawnee County

Richardson County

**Three-Year Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan
January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011**

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Community Team

The community team is the Four County Regional Coalition. It is comprised of 2 representatives from county coalitions in each of the four counties: Johnson County Communities Action Network (CAN), Nemaha Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse (NADAA), Pawnee County Prevention Action Coalition (PAC) and Richardson County Prevention is Key (PIK). Region V Systems has been closely involved in supporting these coalitions. These substance abuse prevention coalitions are community-based and open to all sectors of the community. Each county coalition is part of the 16 county Region V Systems Coalition and participates in the meetings of this wider coalition.

The Four County Coalition meets on the second Thursday of odd numbered months. Each county coalition meets at least once a month. As an existing group collaborating on prevention issues, the Four County Coalition is an ideal platform for coordinating Juvenile Services in the area. Initially, Lutheran Family Services (LFS) had been contracted to provide mentoring in the four counties. In July 2008 LFS withdrew its mentoring program from the area. Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters (HBBBS) was then contracted to be the new provider of mentoring services.

2009 Four County Regional Coalition

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Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool

The previous Juvenile Justice System Tool was reviewed by Judge Curtis Maschman during the preparation of the revised Comprehensive Juvenile Services plan for the four counties. Upon review, the initial plan was retained as written. See Appendix A.

Much of the three year plan is based on discussions among members of the Four County Coalition. Each county coalition receives support from Region V Systems. Their support and the 2007 Risk and Protective Factor Student Surveys conducted in the four counties have been key elements in the development of this plan.

In November and December of 2008, each county participating in the Four County Coalition was asked to participate in an unscientific questionnaire on perceptions of the Juvenile Justice System. It was requested that each county provide at least ten respondents representing schools, social service, law enforcement and the general public. At least two respondents from each county were to be adolescents.

Community Socio-Economic Description

Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties cover 1,770 square miles in the southeastern-most part of Nebraska. Kansas borders Pawnee and Richardson Counties to the south, while the Missouri River borders Richardson and Nemaha Counties to the east. Johnson County lies in the northwest corner of the four counties.

The total population of the area is 23,356 persons (US Census 2006 estimates) with 21.4%-25.5% of the population below 18 years of age. Females make up 51% of the population. The racial/ethnic make is overwhelmingly white (between 95-99%). Hispanics and Latinos make up the largest ethnic minority (approximately 1%). With the Sac-Fox and Iowa Indian reservations along the Kansas-Nebraska boarder, 2.6% of the Richardson County population is Native American.

The area is primarily rural with the population distributed over a large geographical area. There are 2,135 farms while the other major non-farm businesses are construction, manufacturing, retail trade, finance and insurance, health care, and social assistance. The median income level ranges from \$28,483 to \$34,484, significantly lower than the state median of \$41,978. The percent of families living below 100% of the Federal poverty line ranges from 10.0-13.5, equal to or higher than the state figure of 10.0%

Four County Area, based on Nebraska HHS 2005 County Profiles					
	Johnson	Nemaha	Pawnee	Richardson	Nebraska
Total Population (US Census est. 2004)	4,563	7,067	2,842	8,884	1,747,214
Residents under 18 years	23.9%	21.4%	21.6%	24.5%	25.5%
Single parent families + direction of growth	8.5% (↑)	9.9% (↑)	8.7% (↑)	11.1% (↑)	12.4%
Median Household Income	\$33,876	\$34,848	\$28,483	\$29,928	\$41,978
Families with Incomes > 100% poverty level	10.0%	11.2%	13.5%	12.6%	10.0%
% pop 25+ years with < high school education	19.6%	14.5%	16.3%	13.4%	13.4%
Drop outs grades 7-12 (%)	1.6%	0.4%	0.4%	1.6%	1.9%
New families at risk*	11.4%	9.2%	2.7%	12.6%	9.0%
Juvenile arrest rate (per 1,000)	17.4	37.0	16.3	38.5	54.2
Children in out-of-home care/month	25	6	3	17	
Children in cases of abuse/neglect (per 1,000)	18.2	7.2	0	10.1	8.6
Unintentional injury death rate (per 1,000)	48.5	37.6	41.6	69.0	33.3
Motor vehicle death rate (per 1,000)	30.0	23.6	13.9	36.7	16.6
Alcohol related deaths (per 1,000)	43.7	14	8	29	35.5
Suicide rate (per 1,000)	21.7	10.1	8.7	15.2	10.7
Low birth weight babies (per 1,000)	62.8	42.0	56.9	73.6	69.4
Births to adolescent girls (ages 10-17)	5.0%	3.4%	0.8%	3.5%	2.9%

Women accessing prenatal care	80.7%	85.8%	85.4%	76.3%	83.2%
Children as % of Medicaid eligible	60.0%	55.7%	53.6%	59.3%	65.6%
ADC (average families/month)	13	32	6	44	
Food Stamps (persons/month)	172	476	166	721	
WIC (# per/year)	180	168	90	292	
*new families at risk=% first births to unmarried women under 20 years with less than a high school education					

Primary recreational activities include hunting, fishing, trails, reservoirs, church groups, extra-curricular school programs, golf, community parks and three state recreational areas. Highway US 75 is the primary north-south route with Interstate 29 running parallel to the eastern side of the Missouri River. The main east-west highway is US 136 which runs for Interstate 29 in Missouri to Highway US 77 in Beatrice, NE.

There are nine public school districts in this area: Johnson County Central, Sterling, Auburn, Johnson-Brock, Lewiston Consolidated, Pawnee City, Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer, Falls City, and Maple Grove. There are two parochial schools: Sacred Heart (Falls City) and St. Andrew Elementary, Tecumseh. With the increasing consolidation of local school districts, adolescents spend more time commuting to and from school. With greater distances between home and school, students generally have more unsupervised time and there is a greater chance that youth will be unable to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Local opportunities for education beyond high school include Peru State College, Doane College in Crete and Southeast Community College in Beatrice. Other opportunities are located in Lincoln, Omaha and neighboring states.

With the prevailing economic climate, families in the four counties parallel the profiles of others in rural counties and communities in the US as a whole. Service providers and Juvenile Justice Officers both identified parenting as a primary concern for juvenile safety. Multi-income families, parents working shifts and the increase in the number of single-parent households have resulted in a rise in the number of latch-key children and a growing amount of unsupervised time for youth. Parents were described as overwhelmed or unprepared to deal with their children and the rate of change in their communities and society as a whole.

Social services are accessible through local agencies, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership, Region V Systems, schools and other local agencies. However some state agencies have been forced to centralize their services with caseworkers having to serve the communities from Lincoln. While diversion programs are available within the Juvenile Justice System, there is concern in the community that the cost of the diversion programs makes participation prohibitive for some. Generally there is a tension between the desire for increased services in the community and concern about increasing rates of taxation.

Profile data from Nebraska Health and Human Services indicates that in many areas health statistics in the four county area are comparable or better than state averages. However several areas of concern do stand out:

- The percentage of new families at risk are significantly higher in Johnson and Richardson Counties (11.4% and 12.6%) are much higher than the State average (9.0%) while the Pawnee 1,000 percentage (2.7%) is significantly less.
- The percentage of girls (10-17) giving birth in Johnson (5.0%), Nemaha (3.4%) and Richardson (3.5%) Counties are higher than in the Nebraska as a whole (2.9%).
- While 69.4/1,000 babies born in Nebraska are low birth weight babies, 73.6/1,000 born in Richardson County are low birth weight. This corresponds to 76.3% of females accessing prenatal care in the county compared to over 80% for the State and the other three counties.
- The rate of children in substantiated abuse or neglect cases in Johnson (18.2/1,000) surpasses the state rate (8.6/1,000).

While the juvenile arrest rates for the four counties (17.4 Johnson County, 37.0 Nemaha County, 16.3 Pawnee County and 38.5 Richardson County) are appreciably lower than the State rate of 54.2/1,000, the factors where the County's statistics exceed state levels are indicators of high-risk behaviors and environments.

- The death rates from unintentional injuries (48.5 Johnson County, 41.6 Pawnee County and 69.0 Richardson County) are dramatically higher than the State rate (33.3/1,000).
- The motor vehicle fatality rate for Johnson, Nemaha, and Richardson Counties (30.0, 23.6, and 36.7) far exceed 16.6/1,000 for the State as a whole.
- Johnson County's rate of alcohol related deaths is 43.7/1,000 compared to the State rate of 35.5, with the other three counties with rates significantly lower.
- The suicide rate in Johnson and Richardson Counties (21.7 and 15.2) are considerably higher than the State rate (10.7/1,000).

Organized youth gangs do not appear to be a significant presence, but members of the community have identified peer groups and unsupervised activities, as a primary source of juvenile complaints and arrests. These factors, coupled with a limited number of organized recreational activities, are seen as a leading contributor to the level of substance abuse by adolescents in the area. A permissive attitude toward alcohol is an additional contributing factor.

Alcohol is the most abused substance, with marijuana, prescription drugs, inhalants and methamphetamines the commonly used. Recently, however, the availability of cocaine has increased. The use of other controlled substances is present, but not in significantly large numbers.

The Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor, Student Survey Results for 2007 re-enforces concerns regarding how protective factors for juveniles in the four counties are undermined¹. Alcohol is by far the most used substance starting with 20% of youth reporting having tried drinking at least once in their life-time by sixth grade and climbing to nearly 90% by 12th grade. This compares with a first use rate of than 10% in sixth grade to 65% in 12th grade. Likewise, over 30% of youth report having been passenger in a vehicle driven by a drunk driver while in 12th grade, 60% of youth report having rode with a drunk driver.

Beyond the use of alcohol, the substances sixth graders most frequently report as having tried at least once were prescription drugs and inhalants—substances easily obtained from most households. By 12th grade, tobacco, marijuana and performance enhancing drugs are more commonly used.

Overall, protective factors in the area (community, family, school and individuals) are relatively high--about 70% of youth with opportunities for pro-social involvement. But looking at individual risk factors reveals some fundamental challenges to protective factors in the community.

The informal assessment tool used in preparation of this plan indicated the lack of parental guidance, a tolerance of minors consuming alcohol and peers relationships were the greatest perceived risks, while schools, parents and the community were the most common protective factors. A closer comparison between the community's perception of risk and student-reported behaviors shows the complexity of the situation.

The four primary risk factors for **6th graders in the four counties** are:

- Community Disorganization
- Perceived availability of Drugs
- Low Commitment to School and
- Attitudes favorable to Anti-Social Behavior (tolerance of)

In the same surveys, the primary risk factors for 8th graders were:

- Community Disorganization and
- Low Commitment to School

For 10th graders the risks were:

- Community Disorganization
- Attitudes Favoring Drug Use with
- Academic Failure, Early Initiation to Drug Use, and Perceived Risk of Drug Use of approximately equal weight

For 12th graders the primary risk factors were:

- Community Disorganization
- Attitudes Favorable to Drug Use

¹ Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for 2007, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services & Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Partners in Prevention.

- Laws and Norms Favoring Drug Use and
- Attitudes Favorable to Anti-social behavior

Thematic threads running through these risk factors are:

- 1) Permissive attitudes and norms in parts of the communities favoring substance abuse
- 2) The students' perception that there is not a consistent message or response from the community regarding substance abuse (Community Disorganization)
- 3) Negative attitudes toward school on the part of the juveniles (Lack of Commitment or Academic Failure)

Both themes one and two are variations of the attitudes on drugs and alcohol in the communities, at least as perceived by youth.² The sources of alcohol as identified by the students would seem to confirm this perception. For 6th and 8th grades, parents or guardians were the main source of alcohol, with the alcohol being consumed in the home or the home of a friend and in the presence of one or more adult. In 10th and 12th grades the primary sources of alcohol were either peers or an individual known to the youth who had purchased the alcohol. The primary location for consuming that alcohol remained in a home and in the presence of an adult. For some, alcohol consumption is seen as a rite of passage into adulthood.

While the planning questionnaire (Appendix B) is skewed toward individuals in the community who work with youth, it does clearly indicate that the community itself places a very high value on schools. This attitude can be seen in the fact that schools are perceived to be the safest location and the most important resource the county provides for youth. It is identifiable in the fact that schools are seen as the primary source of structure in situations where a youth's parents are unwilling or unable to provide adequate supervision. The importance of schools can also be seen in lively if contentious debates seen in the planning questionnaire regarding new schools and school consolidations.

It is somewhat surprising then that while community places a high value on schools, one of the main risk factors leading to the illegal use and abuse of substances is the youths' relationship toward school. Seen as a reflection of attitudes in the communities the three prime risk factors listed above have been key in developing strategies for changing these attitudes.

Those working with youth in the counties place extremely high value on the youth in the community as a source of vitality and as the hope for the future. The youth already involved in prevention activities are equally clear that their voices need to be a part of development of prevention programs. Given that some of the identified risk factors indicate a degree of disaffection towards schools-- the

² Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results for 2007, Nebraska Department of Health and Nebraska Department of Education.

primary protective factors in the area-- it is important that the active input of youth be part of developing and carrying out activities related to this plan.

In both the self reporting of youth behaviors and the juvenile arrest records in the four counties indicate that alcohol and substance abuse are the top concern for Juvenile Services in the four counties. Four priorities can be identified:

- 1) Contribute to the reduction in the number youth ages 10-17 illegally using alcohol and/or other controlled substances
- 2) Provide structured, supportive and positive relationships for youth displaying anti-social attitudes and behaviors.
- 3) Support youth-oriented activities to promote pro-social behaviors among juveniles in the four county area regarding substance abuse and its consequences

Implicit in the dialogue in, and responses from, the four counties is a desire to provide juveniles in the county with quality and effective services and programming. There was also an expressed desire to increase the capacity of the Four County Coalition to improve capacity and access resources to meet the specific needs in their communities.

- 4) Conduct a community-run research program to identify successes, develop lessons-learned and better-practices

Priorities

Priorities 1-3 are inter-related and will be work on concurrently over the course of the three year plan. Priority 4 will be carried out during the final year of the plan and into the subsequent year.

1) Contribute to the reduction in the number youth ages 10-17 illegally using alcohol and/or other controlled substances

Substance abuse-related arrests Persons under age 18 in the Four County Area (OJJDP)

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Simple assaults	14	10	14	8
Drug abuse violations	6	13	5	5
Driving under influence	6	4	6	3
Liquor laws	47	46	43	26
Disorderly conduct	5	1	8	0

The most frequently articulated concern regarding youth in the four counties was the use of alcohol. While the general perception was that alcohol and marijuana were the primary abused substances, there was a concern regarding a growing presence of cocaine and the abuse of prescription drugs in the county.

Compounding these concerns is the seeming tolerance for, among some members of the community, youth consuming alcohol.

Beyond the immediate risks of driving while impaired; physical assault; and teenage and/or non-consensual sex, the use of alcohol and drugs can also be a gateway to disorderly conduct, felony assault, domestic violence, coercive sexual activities as well as further substance abuse and other long term public health issues.

Objective	Strategies	Responsible parties	Resources needed	Outcomes
Provide individual support for youth to develop coping strategies to resist pressures to use drugs & alcohol	Provide non-judging , supportive relationships	Mentoring programs	Blue Valley	Reduced use of controlled substances by youth
		Schools	Improved referral systems	
	Provide positive, alternative activities	Supportive parents & caregivers	Funding	Young person believes it is import not to use alcohol or other drugs
	Continued & consistent messaging against adult	Community elders	Positive curricula	
		Churches	Active participation of	Young person accepts & takes

	<p>tolerance of teenage drinking</p> <p>Peer to peer relationships</p> <p>Relationships with adults who listen to youths' problems</p> <p>Programs with realistic understanding of pressures experienced by young people</p>	<p>Law enforcement</p> <p>Private sector</p> <p>Neighbors</p> <p>Youth programs</p> <p>Juvenile Services/Juvenile Justice agencies</p> <p>County Coalition members</p> <p>S.E.N.C.A.</p>	<p>private sector</p> <p>Active participation of civic groups</p> <p>Support & guidance to families allowing use/abuse of controlled substances</p>	<p>personal responsibility</p> <p>Young person can resist negative peer pressure & dangerous situations</p> <p>Young persons act on convictions & stands up for their beliefs</p>
Develop, positive consistent, messages for youth & adults on alcohol use/substance abuse	<p>Public service announcements</p> <p>Social marketing</p> <p>In-store marketing</p> <p>Positive materials posted/distributed at sites where consumption occurs</p> <p>Non-confrontational interventions</p> <p>Alternative rites of passage</p> <p>Appropriate public recognition for achievements not associated with substance abuse</p> <p>Exchange of success stories & lessons learned</p>	<p>Local media</p> <p>Alcohol retailers & distributors</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>County Coalition members</p> <p>DARE/AWANA/YADA etc.</p> <p>Law enforcement</p> <p>Neighbors</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>Civic groups</p> <p>Blue Valley</p> <p>Region V Services</p> <p>Mentors</p> <p>Probation officers</p> <p>Judges</p>	<p>1-866 Must B 21</p> <p>Financial Resources</p> <p>Design assistance</p> <p>Marketing assistance</p> <p>Behavior change messaging to complement alcohol resistance messaging</p> <p>Messaging for adults</p> <p>Training materials for schools, mentors, pastors, youth leaders, law enforcement</p>	<p>Change in permissive attitudes</p> <p>Reduced perception that that community attitudes & norms condone teen alcohol consumption</p> <p>Improvement in attitude & behavior factors in Ne. Risk Assessment Surveys</p> <p>Decrease perception that alcohol consumption no longer considered a rite of passage for youth</p>
Improved access to support &	More coordinated	Law enforcement	Additional services &	Greater number of at-risk

treatment services for young substance abusers	<p>referral mechanisms</p> <p>Increased visibility for support & treatment services</p> <p>Reduce any stigma in community for those accessing services</p> <p>Greater participation in diversion programs as appropriate</p> <p>Expanded options for probation as appropriate</p>	<p>Juvenile Services/Juvenile Justice agencies</p> <p>Treatment facilities</p> <p>County Coalition members</p> <p>S.E.N.C.A.</p> <p>Local media</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>Blue Valley</p> <p>Region V Services</p> <p>Mentors</p> <p>Probation officers</p> <p>Judges</p>	<p>treatment programs</p> <p>scholarships to support participation in programs</p> <p>Additional funding for services & programs</p> <p>Continued & expanded referral and coordination among service agencies</p>	<p>adolescents accessing services & programs to prevent or end substance abuse</p> <p>Reduced number of youth beginning to use drugs & alcohol</p> <p>Increased community support for youth avoiding alcohol & drugs</p>
Increase capacity of local agencies to better serve at-risk youth	<p>Continued sharing of ideas and success within 4 county coalition</p> <p>Capacity building workshops and training located in communities</p> <p>Capacity building & training opportunities within the broader prevention networks</p>	<p>4 County Coalition</p> <p>Region V Systems</p> <p>Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters</p> <p>S.E.N.C.A.</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Juvenile Justice & Services agencies</p> <p>Law enforcement</p>	<p>Commitment of time & personnel</p> <p>Utilization of existing networks & coalitions to create opportunities for meetings & trainings</p> <p>Support from regional and state-wide agencies</p> <p>Buy-in from partner agencies</p>	Improved programming for at-risk adolescents

2) Provide structured, supportive and positive relationships for youth displaying anti-social attitudes and behaviors.

**Curfew and runaway related arrests
Persons under age 18 in the Four County Area (OJJDP)**

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Curfew violations	4	6	2	4
Runaway Juveniles	11	3	2	4
Driving under influence	6	4	6	3
All other crimes (except traffic violations)	9	11	14	21

**Violent arrests
Persons under age 18 in the Four County Area (OJJDP)**

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Forcible Rape	0	0	1	0
Robbery	0	0	1	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	1
Burglary	6	4	6	5
Larceny	23	24	19	12
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	1	0	0
Forgery and Counterfeiting	4	0	0	1
Fraud	1	0	0	0
Stolen property	4	0	2	0
Vandalism	5	36	9	10
Weapons	0	1	0	0
Sex offenses (except rape and prostitution)	0	0	0	2

Key risk factors in the community create barriers to fostering these changes:

- A level of tolerance in the community favoring alcohol abuse.
- A low level of commitment to school on the part of students
- A sense that many parents don't have the capacity to provide the supervision and guidance necessary to help their children make positive choices

Objective	Strategies	Responsible parties	Resources needed	Outcomes
Provide youth at risk & youth desiring support with individualize support & care	Mentoring Structured group activities Unstructured group activities Sport, recreational, academic, arts and religious	Schools HHS Mentoring programs Probation & Diversion programs Senior centers	Improved referral systems Mentors Support of the private sector Additional funding Participation of clubs, teams and	Individual youth attain higher levels of academic achievement & social competencies Young person doing 1-4 hours of homework daily Youth is actively

	activities which reach a broad range of interests	and community elders Sports and recreational clubs Private sector Service clubs	individuals outside regular service providers Training and supervision of adult volunteers	engaged in learning Increased sense of community responsibility for youth Improve self image among youth
Increase the capacity of youth to access & utilize academic, developmental & social services	Mentoring Cultural brokers/navigators Expand access to alternative education programs county-wide Active youth participation in delivery & evaluation of programming	Schools HHS Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters Blue Valley Law enforcement agencies Churches Probation services Elders & elderly services S.E.N.C.A.	Partnerships with businesses & civic groups Coordination Improved referral systems Volunteers Monitoring systems Youth involvement Community/cultural representatives Funding	Youth are able to access available services Youth are engaged & progressing in educational system Improved self image Youth & families are able to follow & apply laws & cultural norms in context. Young person doing 1-4 hours of homework daily Youth is actively engaged in learning Increased sense of community responsibility for youth
Provide opportunities for youth to interact with peers in a positive environment	Relevant/youth initiated social activities Non-structured group time Well supervised Community dances	Mentoring agencies Churches 4-H/Scouts Cultural groups Community elders	Youth leaders Youth participation in planning, implementation & assessment of activities. Community buy-in	Youth participate in social activities in close proximity to home Youth interact with peers in an environment which models social & civic

	<p>Movies/concerts/youth-relevant theatre</p> <p>Non-sport & academic after school activities</p> <p>Extra-mural activities which integrate communities instead of competing against them</p>	<p>Schools</p> <p>Youth anti drug groups</p>	<p>Youth buy-in</p> <p>Adults monitors</p> <p>Willingness to allow youth to learn by doing</p>	<p>norms</p> <p>Strengthen youth identification with community.</p>
<p>Youth oriented activities to develop trusting relationships between at-risk youth & key protective factors in community</p>	<p>Presenting activities outside normal venues</p> <p>Bringing activities to areas where at-risk youth are comfortable</p> <p>Identifying trusted youth and adults who are able to be intermediaries between youth & protective factors</p>	<p>Schools</p> <p>Churches</p> <p>Youth programs and groups</p> <p>Private sector</p> <p>Mentoring agencies</p> <p>Social service and juvenile agencies</p>	<p>Willingness to allow youth to take supervised leadership in planning & implementing activities</p> <p>Training for adults & youth in communicating across cultural and economic divisions</p> <p>Creative programming responsive to interests of alienated and disaffected youth</p> <p>Willingness to engage at-risk and problematic youth as peers</p> <p>Effective facilitation of interactions</p>	<p>At risk youth have greater comfort & trust elements in community which provide protective and supportive interactions</p> <p>Increased interaction between at-risk youth and supportive activities</p> <p>Service agencies and supportive adults have improved access to at-risk youth</p>

3) Support youth-oriented activities to promote pro-social behaviors among juveniles in the four counties regarding substance abuse and its consequences

"Most kids that actually NEED a program after school to avoid alcohol use wouldn't come. They would think of it as a joke."

--anonymous respondent Four County Survey, December 2008

With the support of Region V Systems, Johnson, Pawnee and Richardson counties have established strong county coalitions addressing substance abuse among juveniles. Great progress has been made in identifying key issues in the community. Schools are committed to substance abuse prevention and are a key resource to their communities. Youth coalitions have been, or are in the process of being, established to change attitudes towards drugs and alcohol among juveniles.

Youth programs are a key way to communicate messages to both adults and juveniles about resisting negative attitudes. It is equally important to continue beyond changing attitudes toward changing behaviors. But anti-social elements in the community create conflict between at-risk youth and the strongest protective factors in the communities: the school and home.

Especially among older youth, peers are one of the main ways youth are introduced to consuming alcohol and continuing to do so. Furthermore, public institutions such as education, law enforcement and social services are limited in both role and capacity.

Without appropriate support from adults, especially family or caregivers, any commitment to school and its socializing influences are undermined. The result can be a cynical resistance to the services and messages associate with school and other programs associated with fitting into society.

Multiple levels of programming are necessary to re-establish positive relationships with the social support networks in the wider community.

Objective	Strategies	Responsible parties	Resources needed	Outcomes
Foster positive relations between youth, schools & juvenile service providers	Presenting activities outside normal venues Bringing activities to areas where at-risk youth are comfortable Identifying trusted youth and adults	Schools Churches Youth programs and groups Private sector Mentoring	Willingness to allow youth to take supervised leadership in planning & implementing activities Training for adults & youth in communicating	At risk youth have greater comfort & trust elements in community which provide protective and supportive interactions Increased interaction between at-risk

	who are able to be intermediaries between youth & protective factors	agencies Social service and juvenile agencies	across cultural and economic divisions Creative programming responsive to interests of alienated and disaffected youth Willingness to engage at-risk and problematic youth as peers Effective facilitation of interactions	youth and supportive activities Service agencies and supportive adults have improved access to at-risk youth
Provide opportunities for youth to develop a sense of belonging & acceptance within the wider community	Peer groups Work days Mentoring Active participation in operation of county fair & community events	Civic groups Sporting and recreational clubs Neighbors Mentoring agencies Schools DHHS Law enforcement agencies Churches Elected officials Government bodies Community elders	Youth leaders Youth mobilization Youth participation in planning, implementation & assessment of activities. Mentors Adult organizers Sponsors/funding Community buy-in Youth buy-in Private sector support	Young persons perceive that adults in the community value youth Young people are given useful roles in the community Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior Young persons have knowledge of & comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds Greater academic motivation Young person reports an improve sense of self esteem.

Provide opportunities for youth to constructively integrate peer groups with in the wider community	<p>Relevant/youth initiated social activities</p> <p>Non-structured group time</p> <p>Well supervised Community dances</p> <p>Movies/concerts/ youth-relevant theatre</p> <p>Non-sport & academic after school activities</p> <p>Extra-mural activities which integrate communities instead of competing against them</p> <p>Active participation in operation of county fair & community events</p>	<p>Mentoring agencies</p> <p>Churches</p> <p>4-H/Scouts</p> <p>Cultural groups</p> <p>Government bodies</p> <p>Neighbors</p> <p>Community elders</p> <p>Schools</p>	<p>Youth leaders</p> <p>Youth participation in planning, implementation & assessment of activities.</p> <p>Funds/sponsors</p> <p>Community buy-in</p> <p>Active participation of private sector</p> <p>Youth buy-in</p> <p>Adults monitors</p> <p>Willingness to allow youth to learn by doing</p>	<p>Youth feel a sense of belonging within a safe peer environment</p> <p>Youth interact with peers in an environment which models social & civic norms</p> <p>Youth develop sense of leadership & contribution in an environment which models social & civic norms</p>
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4) Conduct a community-run research program to identify successes, develop lessons-learned and better-practices.

Objective	Strategies	Responsible parties	Resources needed	Outcomes
Community accesses previous activities to provide improved juvenile services & improved future planning	<p>Community assessments</p> <p>Youth led assessments</p> <p>Involve youth, clients & community members in design of research tool</p>	<p>Four County regional</p> <p>Region V Systems</p> <p>Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters</p>	<p>Training on community-based research</p> <p>Research coordination</p> <p>Financial support</p> <p>Commitment of time & involvement by community</p>	<p>Increased community ownership of prevention programs & activities</p> <p>Improved services for adolescents in the 4 county area</p> <p>Effective &</p>

	Implement research tool on a peer-to-peer basis		agencies	creative 3 year plan for 2012-14
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Objective	Strategies	Responsible parties	Resources needed	Outcomes
Engage in feed back processes to improve Juvenile Services on Local, Regional, State & National levels	<p>Presentation of results to communities in the four counties</p> <p>Presentation of materials to partners in the 16 counties in the Region V Coalition</p> <p>Present findings to state wide juvenile services, substance abuse & mentoring agencies</p> <p>Present findings at national & inter-state regional meetings</p> <p>Strengthened community leadership on the part of community researchers, presenters & participants</p>	<p>Community members</p> <p>Four County Coalition</p> <p>Region V Systems</p> <p>Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters</p> <p>NE Department of Education</p> <p>NE Department of Health & Human Services</p> <p>NE Crime Commission</p> <p>County Boards</p> <p>Schools</p>	<p>Resources for editing, design & publishing of results</p> <p>Coordination</p> <p>Training for community presenters as necessary</p> <p>Travel funds</p>	<p>Increased local capacity to design, plan, implement & evaluate community programming</p> <p>Increased commitment to communities by adults, youth & new residents</p> <p>Improved youth programming in local community, state & nation</p>

Appendix A: Juvenile Justice System Tool

SYSTEM POINT: ARREST/ CITATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Police/Law Enforcement

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS §§ 43-247 (1), (2), (4)

Decision: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested.

<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed. b. Underlying support for a particular offense. 	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Officer's Inclination/ patience b. Degree to which parent or service provider pushes the issue c. Youth's prior incidences with law enforcement. d. Youth and/or youth's families perceived status in the community.
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Notes:

No comments or additions

Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.

<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Seriousness of Offense b. Is there a warrant? 	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Degree to which juvenile cooperates with officer. b. Victim's desire. c. Is the youth already in the HHS or juvenile system?
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Notes:

No comments or additions

Decision: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248 (1), (2); § 43-250 (1), (2), (3))

<p>Formal Determining Factors</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Immediate risk to juvenile b. Immediate/short term risk to public c. Seriousness of perceived offense] d. Legal status of family (if known) e. Extent to which parent or other responsible adult available to take responsibility for juvenile. f. Is there a warrant? g. Availability of pre-adjudication detention options?
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Notes:

No comments or additions

SYSTEM POINT: INITIAL DETENTION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: State of Nebraska Probation

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-250(3), § 43-260, § 43-260.01

Decision: Whether juvenile should be detained or released.

Formal Determining Factors

- a. Risk assessment outcome
- b. Accessibility of placement options:
 - i. Parents/Guardians
 - ii. Emergency Shelter
 - iii. Staff Secure Facility
 - iv. Secure Detention Facility

Informal Determining Factors

Notes:

No comments or additions.

SYSTEM POINT: CHARGE JUVENILE

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-274(1), § 43-275, § 43-276

Decision: Whether to prosecute juvenile.

Formal Determining Factors

- a. Likelihood of successful prosecution
- b. Factors under NRS § 43-276:
 - i. Type of treatment to which juvenile would be most amenable
 - ii. Evidence that offense was violent, aggressive, or premeditated
 - iii. Motivation for commission of offense
 - iv. Age of juvenile and co-offenders
 - v. Previous offense history, especially patterns of prior violence or antisocial behavior
 - vi. Juvenile's sophistication and maturity
 - vii. Juvenile's prior contacts with law enforcement and the courts
 - viii. Whether there are facilities particularly available to the juvenile court for the treatment and rehabilitation of the juvenile
 - ix. Whether best interests of

Informal Determining Factors

juvenile and public safety dictate supervision extending beyond his or her minority x. Victim's inclination to participate in mediation xi. "Such other matters as the county attorney deems relevant to his or her decision"	
Notes: No comments or additions	

<i>Decision: Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Seriousness of offense	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

<i>Decision: Offense for which juvenile should be charged.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

SYSTEM POINT: PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-253(2)	
<i>Decision: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication.</i>	
Options:	
1. Parents/Guardians 2. Emergency Shelter 3. Staff Secure Facility 4. Secure Detention Facility 5. Electronic Monitoring 6. Work with Probation Officer with screening document	
Formal Determining Factors a. Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile" b. Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of...the person or property of another" c. Whether juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court	Informal Determining Factors a. Provide factual basis to Probation Officer to insure screening device is appropriately used.

Notes:

- To the above option – Unless specifically ordered so by the Judge- Probation responsibility for temporary placement of Law Violations – Followed immediately by a hearing in court.
- The Probation Officer's decision to release the juvenile from custody or place the juvenile in secure or no secure detention shall be based upon the results of the standardized juvenile detention-screening instrument described in section 43-260-01.

SYSTEM POINT: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-256

Decision: Whether state can show that probable cause exists and that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court.

Formal Determining Factors

- a. Police investigation/reports
- b. Sworn Affidavit

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Parents or other agencies
- b. Petitions and motions filed

Notes:

- Temporary custody orders must be signed within 24 hours
- Care must be used to determine probable cause exists prior to commitment.

SYSTEM POINT: COMPETENCY EVALUATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-258(1(b))

Decision: Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings.

Formal Determining Factors

- a. Evaluation
- b. Police investigation/reports

Informal Determining Factors

- a. Investigations prior court cases
- b. Notes from parents or other agencies

Notes:

- Thorough evaluation needs to be made as soon as practically possible to ensure competency determination is made for the care and control of the juvenile.
- OJS evaluations – services provided by HHS – Drug/Alcohol / Psychiatric Evaluations.

Decision: Whether juvenile is “responsible” for his/her acts NRS § 43-258(1(c) and (2))

Formal Determining Factors

- a. Physician, Surgeon, Psychiatrist, Community Health Program, Psychologist
- b. “Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by court.” (NRS §

Informal Determining Factors

- a. CASA
- b. HHS
- c. Adequate investigation of pre-placement behavior to ensure evaluation is correct.

43-258(2))	
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information concerning evaluation pre-placement and previous placements need to be thoroughly investigated so evaluations made are as thorough as they can be. No Juvenile is adjudicated and no dispositions are held unless determinations are completed. Usually through HHS along with evaluations and Guardian Ad Litem reports and CASA reports. 	

SYSTEM POINT: ADJUDICATION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-279 (2) and (3)	
<i>Decision: Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by section 43-247.”</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing b. Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, “pleads to the charges”) 	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Thorough investigation of pre-placement conduct. b. Any information on reports from outside agencies and HHS.
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strict proof needs to be given, as required by law, to insure rights of juveniles are protected. 	

<i>Decision: Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (statutory authority unclear)</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Police investigation/reports 	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notes from parents or other agencies
Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care must be taken to insure probation is not overburdened with investigation when other outside sources can be utilized. Probation may be both formal and informal – PDI’s are ordered prior to disposition- plus any evaluations or reports – such as CASA and Guardian Ad Litem. Juvenile cases a “civil” in nature and not “criminal convictions”. <p>*See NRS § 29-2261(2): A court may order a pre-sentence investigation in any case, except in cases in which an offender has been convicted of a Class IIIA misdemeanor, a Class IV misdemeanor, a Class V misdemeanor, a traffic infraction, or any corresponding city or village ordinance.</p>	

<i>Decision: Whether to order OJS evaluation</i> NRS § 43-281	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Police investigation/reports b. Prior to out of home placement or 	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notes from parents or other agencies

commitments sometimes with in home placements	
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OJS Evaluation used only when all o f the factors presented to the court indicate further evaluation prior to disposition is necessary. <p>*See also: NRS § 29-2204(3): Except when a term of life is required by law, whenever the defendant was under eighteen years of age at the time he or she committed the crime for which he or she was convicted, the court may, in its discretion, instead of imposing the penalty provided for the crime, make such disposition of the defendant as the court deems proper under the Nebraska Juvenile Code. Prior to making a disposition, which commits the juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services, the court shall order the juvenile to be evaluated by the office if the juvenile has not had an evaluation within the past twelve months.</p>	

<i>Decision: Whether to order a PDI or OJS Evaluation</i>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Presumably supplement each other b. Uncertainty about whether probation or commitment to OJS is in the juvenile's best interest 	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outside resources used to supply information of prior conduct.
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Careful evaluation of all factors needs to be considered to determine if conduct may be caused by deviant factors or psychological factors before choice is made. ▪ We often rely not only on OJS evaluations or HHS Evaluations but also Guardian Ad Litem reports – CASA reports and other agency reports. 	

<p>SYSTEM POINT: DISPOSITION</p> <p>PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge</p> <p>STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286 (1)</p>	
<i>Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation</i> NRS § 43-286(1)(a)(i)	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Police investigation/reports 	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notes from parents or other agencies
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prior history ▪ Recommendation of agencies or probation ▪ Probation should only be used in those cases where ongoing supervision is absolutely necessary to insure proper treatment or placement of juvenile is continued and responsible parties comply with treatment recommendation. 	

<i>Decision: Whether to commit such juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services</i> NRS § 43-286(1)(b)	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Police investigation/reports 	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Notes from parents or other agencies
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment to OJS should be reserved for those cases where intervention by OJS is absolutely required. 	

- Risk factors such as danger to self or others, out of control and history.

Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to HHS or OJS

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
a. No apparent authority for delinquent in the legal custody of parents/guardian.	Gives probation responsibility of supervision, but opens access to HHS/OJS funds for treatment or rehabilitation

Notes:

- Occasionally cases may be pled specifically one way – so that the juvenile / family will get needed services because they lack sufficient resources to pay for services.
- Offices of HHS and Department of OJS-HHS need to communicate clear recommendations prior to placement to insure that limited state resources are adequately used.
- The court is in constant need of reports and evaluations on juveniles under its jurisdiction. The rule of thumb being “what’s in the best interest of the juvenile.” Reports show associated agencies are most necessary and are invaluable to juvenile courts and judges. In order to best determine the proper plan for the juvenile. Agencies that provide that information can offer a valuable resource for in put to the judges. With the large caseload and work of HHS caseworkers they cannot always spend the amount of time they would like to prepare case support. They are carrying large caseloads!

See Also, State v. David C., 6 Neb. App. 198, 572 N.W.2d 392 (1997): [9] It is clear that the court intended to commit David to the YRTC without actually revoking his probation. We can find no statutory basis for this procedure. Section 43-286 provides for the possible dispositions that a court may make, including continuing [*214] the disposition portion of the hearing and (1) placing the juvenile on probation subject to the supervision of a probation officer; (2) permitting the juvenile to remain in his or her [***31] own home, subject to the supervision of the probation officer; (3) placing the juvenile in a suitable home or institution or with the Department; or (4) committing him or her to OJS. **Section 43-286 provides no authority for a court to place a juvenile on probation under the care of OJS.** Section 43-286(4)(e) provides that if the court finds that the juvenile violated the terms of his or her probation, the court may modify the terms and conditions of the probation order, extend the period of probation, or enter "any order of disposition that could have been made at the time the original order of probation was entered" The court could not have originally entered an order providing for probation with commitment to YRTC, and it necessarily follows that the court could not enter such an order upon finding that the juvenile had violated the terms of his or her probation. The attempt to continue probation while committing David to a YRTC would also require a reversal of the order of April 30.

SYSTEM POINT: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Probation

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 29-2266

Decision: Whether to impose administrative sanctions on a probationer

Formal Determining Factors (NRS § 29-2266 (2))	Informal Determining Factors Factors considered for cases eligible for
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Probation officers has reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed or is about to commit a substance abuse violation or a non-criminal violation b. Substance abuse violation refers to a positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test, or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluations or treatment c. Non-criminal violation means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Moving traffic violations; ii. Failure to report to his or her probation officer; iii. Leaving the jurisdiction of the court or leaving the state without the permission of the court or his or her probation officer; iv. Failure to work regularly or attend training school; v. Failure to notify his or her probation officers of change of address or employment; vi. Frequenting places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered; vii. Failure to perform community service as directed; viii. Failure to pay fines, courts costs, restitution, or any fees imposed pursuant to section 29-2262.06. 	<p>an Administrative Sanction, prior to initiating an Administrative Sanction include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nature and seriousness of the violation. 2. Past history of Administrative Sanctions files and reasons for sanctions. 3. Offender's amenability to continued supervision and intervention. 4. Offender's perceived danger or threat to himself, or the community. <p>All violations of probation are staffed with the Chief Probation Officer or designee, prior to a decision being made. In the event a division is made to refer the matter for revocation proceedings, and Alleged Probation Violation report is submitted to the court, with a copy to the County Attorney. The County Attorney then makes the division as to whether to proceed or not with formal revocation proceedings. All cases involving a new criminal charge being filed are referred to the Court and County Attorney for possible revocation proceedings.</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <p>No comments or additions</p>	

SYSTEM POINT: MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(i)

Formal Determining Factors

Informal Determining Factors

Notes: No comments or additions

SYSTEM POINT: MODIFICATION/REVOCATION OF PROBATION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(v)	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

SYSTEM POINT: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-2,104	
<i>Decision: Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment</i> NRS § 43-2,102	
Formal Determining Factors (43-2,103) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Juvenile's post-adjudication behavior and response to treatment and rehabilitation programs b. Whether setting aside adjudication will depreciate seriousness of juvenile's conduct or promote disrespect for law c. Whether failure to set aside adjudication may result in disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based. 	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

<i>Decision: Whether juvenile should be discharged from the custody and supervision of OJS</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Presumably same as those for probation under NRS § 43-2,103 	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions See Also, <i>In re Interest Tamartha S.</i> , 267 Neb. 78; 672 N.W.2d 24 (2003): it is clear under the language of § 43-408 that the committing court maintains jurisdiction over a juvenile committed to OJS, conducts review hearings every 6 months, and is to receive written notification of the placement and treatment status of juveniles committed to OJS at least every 6 months. See § 43-408(2) and (3). Thus, although the statute speaks of committed [**28] juveniles' being "discharged from [OJS]," § 43-408(2), the statute does not explicitly say that OJS discharges the juveniles, and, on the contrary, the Legislature has explicitly mandated that the committing court "continues to maintain jurisdiction" over a juvenile [***9] committed to OJS. <i>Id.</i> Therefore, while OJS may make an initial determination with regard to the advisability of the discharge of a	

juvenile committed to OJS, the committing court, as a result of its statutorily imposed continuing jurisdiction, must approve the discharge of the juvenile.

Appendix B

Results Summary*

Juvenile Justice Survey

Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Richardson Counties, December 2008

Over the past few years, what changes have you seen in your community?

- Declining population (3)
- Increased poverty (2)
- Influx low income/at-risk families (3)
- Adult and youth organizations in community (3)
- More youth involved in criminal activities (3)
- More juveniles on streets/in trouble
- Increased alcohol/drug use (4)
- Teen pregnancy
- Relocation of HHS/CPS workers outside of community
- Increased burden on local law enforcement
- Influx of Hispanic minority students
- Loss of businesses
- New high school
- Merged school districts
- Divisions in the community due to the bond issue and levy override

What has been the impact of these changes?

- Strain on the resources available
- Programs/information regarding drug awareness (2)
- Increased number of youth being placed outside the home
- Rising crime rate (5)
- Less money spent in town causing local economy to decline
- Unemployment
- Decrease in school enrollment
- Communities coming together to address actual needs
- More youth in the court system (6)
- Increase of at risk juveniles in the community
- Kids are bored, not enough for them to do
- Minority students are mostly positive impact in school- -mostly good academic students with good family background. Some don't stay because of academics or poor guidance at home
- Two schools merging very smoothly together
- Hard feelings over the passing of the bond issue
- Kids have suffered the consequences because of lack of school support

Why have these changes happened?

- Don't know
- Better understanding of what is going on at a local level (2)
- Community organizations/outreach
- Poor parenting/lack of discipline (3)
- Curfew ordinance passed
- High state taxes
- People don't spend their money in the community
- Economic downturn (2)
- Lower cost of living/influx of at-risk families (3)
- High housing market/poor selection
- Lack of jobs in the area (2)
- Reassignment of HHS
- Influx in minority students
- Two schools merging is self explanatory
- Old school was a hazard
- Strong opposition to the building of the new school

How has the community responded to these changes?

- The best it can give the financial limitations
- The school districts are excellent
- Core group of people who want to help the youth
- Appreciation for work done (2)
- After school programs (2)
- Drug/alcohol abuse organizations (3)
- AWANA church program
- Mentoring programs
- Skate park
- Economic development activities (4)
- Curfew has been put into effect
- Put more burden put on local services
- Don't know (3)
- No responses apparent (2)
- Not welcoming (2)
- Most have been a positive, welcoming (2)
- Still hard feelings over the building of the school

What are the most important things your county has to offer youth?

- Good schools (6)
- Smaller class rooms and teacher to student ratio, but less tax dollars to support new teachers and their families coming to this area
- Acceptance for new students
- School activities/mentoring (5)
- Local churches (4)
- Scouts/4-H (2)
- Drug/alcohol abuse prevention programs
- As a District, we have varying stages of development; programs vary from community/youth involvement to grant funded programs
- Not much for community activities for youth (2)
- Don't know
- Community that watches out for youth
- Local businesses employ our students

What are the most important things that youth bring to your community?

- Vibrancy, hope, excitement, energy (11)
- Involved at school and in the community
- The youth work with the adult drug and alcohol group (2)
- It is important for people to see that kids have a voice too (2)
- The youth contribute to the community by volunteering (2)
- Bring the community together with their activities and events
- Don't know (2)
- After high school and college they return to the area and work and raise a family

What problems do youth in your community face in home, school or the community?

- Lack of resources (2)
- Substance abuse (8)
- Lack of supervision/parental guidance/poor parenting (11)
- Parental drug/alcohol use (3)
- Parental tolerance of alcohol use (3)
- Drinking seen as "rite of passage"
- Child abuse/neglect (3)
- Sexual activity
- Poverty (2)
- Parents with two jobs
- Not enough jobs

- Don't Know
- Single-parent homes (3)
- Nothing to do (2)
- Lack of treatment services, law enforcement
- Peer pressure (2)
- Crime (both as victims and perpetrators)

Where are youth the safest?

- School/school functions (17)
- With positive/supportive adults and peers (4)
- Supervised activities (2)
- Home (3)
- Homes that are positive places (3)
- Church

What are the riskiest places for youth?

- On the streets (3)
- Peer pressure/friends (5)
- Without supervision (3)
- Un-supervised homes
- Homes where parents don't set boundaries (3)
- Places where adults tolerate/condone drinking (4)
- Underage drinking party (4)
- Being consistently alone
- Groups that evolve from being alone/different

What are the strengths of the Juvenile Justice system in your county?

- Social service systems/providers (6)
- Youth who are caught are lawfully punished (2)
- Law enforcement (5)
- Courts/Judge (4)
- Don't know (3)
- Nothing
- Aware of potential problems

How can the Juvenile Justice system in your county improve its services to youth and the community?

- Youth have to step over the line in order to be brought into the system.
- Better communication (2)
- Don't know (7)
- Hold parents accountable (2)
- More community services (2)
- CASA program
- CPS worker located in area (2)
- Adequate counseling
- Guidelines that offer the best for the youth
- Poor Services (2)
- System is overloaded (2)
- Diversion program more affordable (2)
- Law enforcement training for small agencies (2)
- Positive activities for youth (2)

What should be the priorities for youth services in your county?

- Providing youth activities/safe places (6)
- Education
- Role modeling/mentors (3)
- Guidance for parents
- Counseling/support (3)
- Development of life skills for youth (3)
- Providing structure for youth
- Drugs and alcohol education (2)
- Collaboration among youth-related providers (including youth) (2)
- Don't know
- CPS workers live in the area
- Counseling and mental health facilities located in the communities
- Better training for law enforcement.
- Quicker response from HHS when a juvenile is removed from the home
- Support accessing services and support (2)
- It is next to impossible to stop some of the problems

Name three people, agencies or organizations that must be involved in meeting these priorities?

- School districts (10)
- Substance abuse prevention groups (4)
- City and county governments (4)

- Youth Police Department (5)
- Parents (4)
- Social services (6)
- Society as a whole
- Entire Justice System (3)
- Church (3)
- Civic clubs/community organizations (3)

* This document represents a collation of responses from individual and group discussions. Information is not ranked or prioritized. Mention of specific locations, individuals or organizations are for reporting purposes only and do not reflect the opinions or positions of the county boards, the agency compiling the data or of the wider community population.

Appendix C

Juvenile Arrests Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Richardson Counties, NE 2004-2007

County	2004				2005				2006				2007			
	Jon	Nem	Paw	Ric	Jon	Nem	Paw	Ric	Jon	Nem	Paw	Ric	Jon	Nem	Paw	Ric
Forcible Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	n/r	0	n/r	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	n/r	0	n/r	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/r	1	n/r	0
Burglary	0	4	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	5	n/r	2	n/r	3
Larceny	0	6	1	16	0	1	0	23	0	3	0	16	n/r	6	n/r	6
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	n/r	0	n/r	0
Simple Assault	0	3	0	11	0	2	0	8	0	7	0	7	n/r	5	n/r	3
Forgery & Counterfeiting	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/r	0	n/r	1
Fraud	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/r	0	n/r	0
Stolen Property	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	n/r	0	n/r	0
Vandalism	0	2	1	2	0	1	0	35	0	0	3	6	n/r	2	n/r	8
Weapons	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/r		n/r	0
Sex Offenses (except rape & prostitution)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/r	0	n/r	2
Drug Abuse Violations	0	4	0	2	0	5	0	8	0	3	0	2	n/r	3	n/r	2
Driving Under the Influence	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	4	n/r	2	n/r	1
Liquor Laws	19	13	5	10	2	29	9	6	3	29	1	10	n/r	19	n/r	7
Disorderly Conduct	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	2	n/r	0	n/r	0
Other Offenses (non-traffic)	0	2	0	7	0	6	0	5	0	12	0	2	n/r	13	n/r	8
Curfew (Juveniles)	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	2	n/r	0	n/r	4
Runaway (Juveniles)	0	5	0	6	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	n/r	0	n/r	4

These statistics are estimates and may differ from other published sources. As of date published, 2007 data for Johnson and Pawnee counties was not yet available. The county-level files which are the source of this information are not official FBI releases and are being provided for research purposes.

Source: Puzzanchera, C., Adams, B., Snyder, H., and Kang, W. (2007). "Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics 1994-2007" Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezaucr/>

Appendix D

Estimated arrests of persons under age 18 in Nebraska

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Coverage Indicator	95%	93%	94%	95%	95%	93%
Total Arrests	18,630	16,680	15,996	15,040	14,892	15,290
Violent Crime Index	226	214	202	177	222	185
Murder/nonneg. mans.	3	1	4	4	4	1
Forcible rape	22	12	12	13	16	8
Robbery	81	72	85	51	69	59
Aggravated assault	120	129	101	109	133	117
Property Crime Index	4,816	4,300	4,249	3,523	3,602	3,424
Burglary	436	317	336	398	345	303
Larceny-theft	4,052	3,663	3,593	2,880	3,045	2,908
Motor vehicle theft	209	219	238	163	139	131
Arson	119	101	82	82	73	82
Non-index						
Other assaults	1,852	1,877	1,668	1,776	1,766	2,033
Forgery and counterfeiting	75	52	57	37	34	24
Fraud	109	97	103	68	67	57
Embezzlement	16	18	7	7	4	3
Stolen property	261	258	252	187	170	171
Vandalism	1,377	1,132	1,047	1,190	1,117	1,092
Weapons	206	182	127	156	182	168
Prostitution/commercialized vice	9	5	1	6	3	4
Sex offenses (other)	142	112	115	118	111	128
Drug abuse violations	1,377	1,465	1,257	1,111	1,154	1,169
Gambling	2	3	1	0	2	2
Offenses against family	30	17	25	28	28	23
Driving under influence	412	406	373	374	353	300
Liquor laws	2,671	2,587	2,731	2,467	1,530	1,579
Drunkenness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disorderly conduct	820	756	819	814	882	862
Vagrancy	1	0	1	0	0	2
All other offenses	3,129	2,352	2,310	2,351	2,951	3,209
Suspicion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curfew and loitering	689	553	405	398	390	507
Runaways	410	294	246	252	324	348
Population Ages 10 to 17	209,100	205,700	205,700	201,700	198,300	195,100

These statistics are estimates that account for missing data and may differ from other published sources. The county-level files which are the source of this information are not official FBI releases and are being provided for research purposes.

Source: Puzzanchera, C., Adams, B., Snyder, H., and Kang, W. (2007). "Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics 1994-2005" Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezaucr/>